

A CIVIC AND RECREATION CENTER FOR PULASKI COUNTY, VIRGINIA

by

Wm. Phillips Brown, II

Thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
in candidacy for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

ARCHITECTURE

APPROVED:

---

Director of Graduate Studies  
Louis A. Pardue

APPROVED:

---

Head of Architectural Department  
C. H. Cowgill

---

~~Dean of Engineering and Architecture~~  
John W. Whittemore

---

Chief Critic  
Charles S. Worley

July 1953

Blacksburg, Virginia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

To my professors and school-mates at V.P.I., I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance and inspiration they have given in my study of architecture. I give particular thanks to Professor Charles S. Worley whose personal guidance and encouragement as Design Critic has been invaluable in bringing this thesis into being.

To my friends in Pulaski County, I give my hearty thanks for the time, patience, and enthusiasm they so generously gave in the preparation of this work.

---

 TABLE OF CONTENTS
 

---

PART I.....INTRODUCTION	Page No.
A. A Vision.....	6
B. Thesis Objectives.....	11
C. Pulaski County: Its People and Its Problems.....	12
 PART II.....PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	
A. Introduction.....	19
B. Physical Recreation.....	23
1. Public Recreation.....	23
2. Private and Semi-private Recreation.....	33
3. Commercial Recreation.....	39
C. Social and Cultural Recreation.....	41
1. Social Recreation.....	41
2. Cultural Recreation.....	44
D. Civic Requirements.....	49
1. Political.....	49
2. Educational.....	51
3. Charity and Welfare.....	52
E. Program of Activities.....	54
1. Physical Recreation.....	54
2. Social Activities.....	54
3. Cultural Activities.....	55
4. Civic Activities.....	56

PART III.....DESIGN	Page No.
A. Presentation.....	58
1. Map of Pulaski County.....	59
2. The Civic and Recreation Center and Its Relationship to the Town of Pulaski.....	60
3. Site Location Plan.....	61
4. Basement and First Floor Plans.....	62
5. Second and Third Floor Plans.....	63
6. Longitudinal Section, East and West Elevations, Lobby Section, and Dressing Room Level Plan.....	64
7. North and South Elevations.....	65
8. Birds' Eye Perspective.....	66
9. Entrance Lobby Perspective.....	67
B. Design Analysis.....	68
1. General.....	68
2. The Site.....	68
3. The Building.....	69
C. Conclusions.....	73
 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	 74
 VITA.....	 75

PART I.....INTRODUCTION

Pulaski County, Virginia is a county that is doing things. The 27,758 individuals within the county borders comprise one large community of 327 square miles. Whether they reside in the cities or on the farms does not affect the intense pride in their county for which Pulaski citizens are well known. The well faring and development of their county are matters of greatest concern to them. As Pulaski citizens are men and women of both vision and vigor, they do more than think on these matters: they act.

This thesis explores only one phase of the most far sighted civic enterprises ever conceived in Southwest Virginia. The "vision" is the establishment of the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund to be used for the purpose of making Pulaski a more unified and progressive county. The fund will be utilized first to erect a civic center as a living memorial to those residents of Pulaski County who contributed to the county's progress by donating to the fund a portion of their wealth upon their death. In the future, as the fund increases, the money will be used for such worthy purposes as enabling Pulaski youths to go to college by granting long range loans to those who have the ability but lack the means. The fund will also be an aid in emergencies where large sums of capital can be made available, in terms of millions of dollars, it is hoped, to develop or rebuild areas of the county which may be in dire need or ravaged by fire or other forces.

It is necessary to examine the project more closely in order to fully grasp the magnitude of its scope and to visualize how the project will

accomplish its objective.

The individual who is supplying both the "vision" and the initial leadership is Mr. Robert Bunts, Chairman of the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce and an active leader in all county affairs. Mr. Bunts conceived the idea of establishing the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund when he realized that many of the leading citizens of Pulaski who have acquired a large amount of wealth through enterprise in the county would rather make a contribution to the community which was to a degree responsible for their success instead of leaving their assets upon their death to distant relatives they may hardly know. Mr. Bunts also realized that at present such contributions would not have the opportunity of being placed in an institution or an organization that would benefit all Pulaski citizens on an equal basis, for the existing welfare and charitable organizations are scattered and under staffed with a limited range of activities and even fewer facilities. Because of this situation, wealthy citizens have been hesitant in donating large sums of money to these organizations. It has also been observed that because of their intense pride, the people who needed help the most refuse outright charity. They only want a chance to help themselves. In view of these observations, it became evident that one central, county-wide organization should be established which could manage a fund of donations to the best advantage of the county as a whole. The aid granted by the fund should not take the form of charity; rather, it should take the form of providing the means for people to better themselves by obtaining long range loans while in reduced circumstances, with the expectation of repaying the loan on

the brighter tomorrow. This is a basic American policy which has been responsible to a large degree for the place this country holds in the world today.

The Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund is the answer to these requirements. It will be a chartered organization, which when once set up, will be administered by a group of three men who will be composed of the cashiers of each of the three banks in the county. These administrators will be men of financial proficiency and personal integrity as proven by their service to the community as bankers. Under such guidance, the donors will be assured of competent and efficient management of their contributions, both from the standpoint of wise investment of the funds and from the prudent granting of aid.

Every method of raising funds for the project was considered and it was found that, in addition to those citizens who are eager to leave their money to such a fund, there are many others who have not been approached or have not thought along these lines, but who would gladly participate in the project if proper stimulus were applied. An incentive to make these individuals eagerly desire to give their money to the fund when they die was devised. It is an excellent device which is directly in line with the ideals of the project, for it is one that, in itself, will be of great service to the county as well as of service in securing potential donors. It takes the form of a county civic and recreational center which will be erected from the early contributions to the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund. The building will serve its dual function first by providing the people of Pulaski County with much needed indoor recreational facilities,



a center for social and cultural activities, and a central headquarters for all Pulaski County civic and welfare activities. Secondly, it will serve as an enticement for donors, for in the lobby of the great auditorium of the building, which will be named the "Hall of Memories", will be erected a bronze bust of each donor with a brief history of his life and achievements. This form of remembrance will be an inspiration for greater achievement to all beholders, and will provide an opportunity for successful citizens to be remembered in this world after they pass on. It is a dignified and inspirational means by which the donors will be remembered by their neighbors and countrymen, in the role of generous and successful citizens.

At present, the project is in its embryonic stage. Mr. Bunts has laid the plan before the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce which will become the promoting body for the fund. To the five hundred active members of this energetic organization will fall the responsibility of initiating the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund and fostering it until it becomes a chartered organization under its own administrators. Their job is a large one, for not only must they secure contributions, but they must also gain the cooperation of the independent civic, social, cultural, and recreational organizations which will have a stake in the new building. The Chamber of Commerce will be promoting an entirely new idea to these people with no similar projects existing in this section of the country to reassure them that such a dream can become a reality. Therefore, with no examples available, the next best means of selling the idea is to present it on paper.

One purpose of this thesis is to make such a presentation.

The Chamber of Commerce is in need of selling tools in the form of a civic and recreation center design, with sufficient drawings to give the individuals and organizations that they will approach a graphic impression of how their donations and cooperation will serve the county through such a building. At the same time, the author was looking for a thesis subject that would be both interesting to himself and beneficial to others. The Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project offered an ideal subject. Consequently, an agreement was made with the Chamber of Commerce whereby the author would study the needs and requirements of a Civic and Recreation Center for Pulaski County in relation to the overall project and present his findings and conclusions in the form of a building design to the Chamber of Commerce as a thesis in return for their cooperation and assistance in securing the necessary data in the research phase of this thesis. The agreement has been of special value to the author, for without the cooperation of Mr. Bunts and the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce this thesis could not have been completed.

It is the purpose of this thesis to develop the design of a civic and recreation center for Pulaski County, Virginia, which will to the best of the author's ability satisfy two major requirements.

The first requirement is that the building shall fulfill the specific needs of the citizens of Pulaski County in providing them with the facilities to carry on those recreational, social, cultural, and civic activities which are so necessary for their individual well being and so necessary for making Pulaski a more progressive, a more enjoyable, and a healthier county in which to live. In order to evolve the plans for a building that will fulfill this requirement, it was necessary for the author to go out into Pulaski County and meet the people for whom he was designing. Only by such a method could the author hope to integrate his planning with the tempo and patterns of their daily lives. In the following section the citizens of Pulaski will be introduced to the reader as the author came to know them, to know their general characteristics, their interests, their present needs, and their future dreams.

The second requirement is that through a synthesis of the function, the structure, and the aesthetic qualities of the building, it will reflect the noble character of the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project and will serve as an inspirational memorial to those citizens who, by their contributions, will make the project a success.

C. PULASKI COUNTY; ITS PEOPLE AND ITS PROBLEMS

Pulaski County, while not one of the largest counties of Virginia, is one of the best known. It is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of Southwest Virginia approximately fifty miles West of Roanoke, Virginia, and ninety miles East of Bristol, Tennessee. U.S. Route 11, the Lee Highway, which connects these two cities bisects the county in an East-West direction, while the county straddles the North-South Coal to Cotton Highway, Route 100, linking the mills and mines of West Virginia with the South. Nearly every part of Pulaski County lies adjacent to the Norfolk & Western Railroad which traverses the county with three lines. At the Town of Pulaski, the main line of the railroad is joined by the Cripple Creek branch that links up with a rich farming section.

Courageous pioneers of Scotch-Irish decent whose lives have always been closely woven with that of the famous Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, came from that beautiful valley in 1757 in search of desirable home sites and they found them near the top of the Blue Ridge divide. Thus, came the first white people to establish a permanent settlement in Pulaski's historic hills. Further settlement was delayed until after the French and Indian Wars, when the territory was opened to pioneers impatiently waiting to move westward. They came from the Atlantic seaboard and the Shenandoah Valley to build their homes along the New River and its tributaries, on land embracing what is now Pulaski County.<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Jamestown Exhibit Committee. Pulaski County, Virginia.  
Southwest Publishing Co., Pulaski, 1907.

Pulaski County at that time was contained in Fincastle County and remained a part of that county until 1776, when Montgomery County was formed from Fincastle. Finally, on March 30, 1839, Pulaski County was created from portions of Montgomery and Wythe Counties. The county was named in honor of Count Pulaski of Poland who came to this country, at the solicitation of Benjamin Franklin, to fight in the cause of American freedom. After two years of fighting in behalf of the cause he had come to love, the patriot was killed in an attack on Savannah in 1779.<sup>2</sup>

From the beginning of the first settlement, the citizens of Pulaski County have taken a conspicuous part in the affairs of the State and Nation. Patriots from Fincastle County, of which Pulaski was then a part, met at the old Lead Mines, January 20, 1775, and drew up a document now famed as the first declaration of independence from the mother country. Imbued with the same unconquerable spirit, Pulaski patriots bore a prominent part in the ensuing struggle for freedom. The muster rolls of the soldiers from Pulaski County who served in the Confederate Army and the accounts of their heroic actions fill many pages of Civil War histories. One of the most sanguinary conflicts of the war, the battle of Gloyd's Farm, took place within the county May 9, 1864.<sup>3</sup> Likewise, the citizens of Pulaski contributed their full share to the national cause in the First and Second World Wars as they are doing today in the Korean conflict. It has been the pride of Pulaski people that the County has always risen

---

2. Pulaski Chamber of Commerce. Brochure on Pulaski County.

3. Jamestown Exhibit Committee. Op. cit., pp. 8-22.

eagerly to every demand that has been made upon it.

The same alertness and resourcefulness that made Pulaski citizens outstanding in times of national strife has also been responsible for their rapid development in civil life. The early Scotch-Irish settlers were quick to take advantage of the natural adaptability of the country to the luxuriant growth of grass, which with their innate love of stock, made the reputation of Pulaski second to no county in the State for its fine livestock.

Until the early 1900's, Pulaski was primarily an agricultural county. But, as early as 1879 industry began to take advantage of the vast timber, mineral, and power resources of the county to a point where, today, manufacturing has taken precedence, giving employment to twice as many persons as does agriculture. According to the 1950 Census Report, of the 6,685 employed males of Pulaski County, 1,016 are engaged in agriculture while 2,436 are engaged in industry.

Pulaski County, though its population is composed of people with agricultural and industrial backgrounds, has a tremendous amount of social and cultural interest. Its citizens have a profound desire for varied and creative living, as evidenced in the large number of active organizations that sponsor and participate in social and cultural activities. In fact, so great is their enthusiasm along these lines, that the problem arises of having too many organizations established without the proper coordination among them. There is much overlapping of activities and wasted energy, which, if expended in a more unified effort, would benefit their community to a greater degree. One leader in summing up the

problem wistfully exclaimed, "If only we could disband all the organizations and organize Pulaski all over again!" Such a measure would be unnecessary once the Civic and Recreation Center is erected and the cooperation of all the organizations is secured in the project, for not only will the building provide central facilities for all activities, but it will provide permanent administrative headquarters for each social, cultural, civic, and recreational organization in the immediate area, which will include nearly every such organization in the county. The ultimate aim is to bring these organizations under one roof where facility of contact and coordination will be provided by one central agency: an agency which will not bring unifying efforts at the expense of loss of identity by the individual organizations, but one whereby coordination may be achieved by letting each group know what the others are doing so that it may cooperate and plan its own activities accordingly.

At present, Pulaski's greatest problem is juvenile delinquency. According to court records, Pulaski County has the second highest juvenile delinquency rate in Virginia. This fact was established purely on the basis of the number of juvenile cases brought before the County Courts and, therefore, does not give a true picture of the actual juvenile delinquency problem. For, in many counties there are probation officers who, if endowed with sufficient knowledge of human psychology, can keep many cases of juvenile delinquency from appearing before the court by effecting a private settlement between the plaintiff and the juvenile defendant or his parents. Thus, the cases do not appear on the court records, and those counties have an excellent juvenile delinquency rating,

though, in reality, they may have the highest frequency of juvenile crime. Pulaski has no probation officer and this may, in part, explain the greater number of court cases. Another variable that makes such ratings an inaccurate comparison is the attitude and adequacy of law enforcement. Pulaski people have long been known as peaceful, God-fearing citizens who advocate swift and impartial justice on all wrong doers. This characteristic is reflected in their efficient and effective police force which, in turn, increases the number of cases appearing on the court records. Also, the definition of what constitutes a juvenile offense is not consistent in all counties. In Pulaski County there is no truant officer such as there is in many other counties, and truancy is therefore defined as a juvenile offense and is handled in the courtroom. These are but three of the many explanations for Pulaski's shocking juvenile delinquency rating. In reality, one will find that Pulaski has about the same youth problem that is typical of any other section of the United States.

But the problem is: What causes juvenile delinquency, and what can be done to curb it?

Neither Pulaski nor the child psychologists can put their finger on any one cause. They will all agree that it is a terribly complex problem, for delinquency does not correlate positively with age, mentality, social level, or any definite characteristic. Each case has its own underlying cause that goes back into the delinquent's early emotional life; into his family life, his school life, and his total experiences in living up to the moment.



Just as there is no one cause of delinquency, there is no one cure or prevention. To say that adequate recreation, or more specifically, to say that the Civic and Recreation Center with a large, modern youth center could clear up juvenile delinquency would be the height of optimism. The center can help to combat delinquency to a large degree by offering a flexible program with a wide range of activities in which children of varying degrees of social adaptability might find satisfying experiences.

Thus one finds Pulaski citizens proud of their heritage, aware of their civic and political responsibilities, of stable character, industrious, extremely gregarious, blessed with intelligent, creative leadership, and endowed with a wealth of cultural interest and talent. With raw material of such high quality, the process of combining and solidifying the county into one homogeneous product is greatly simplified. All that is needed is a central plant and the initial impetus to set the wheels in motion. The Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund will give the initial momentum while the Civic and Recreation Center will provide the physical plant which will take the raw enthusiasm, interests, talents, and desires through its well coordinated and regulated facilities and turn out a final product that has been culturally enriched, socially adapted, civically inspired, and physically and mentally invigorated.

PART II.....PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

In Part I of this thesis, the designer has attempted to present a general picture of the background, characteristics, and problems of the people for whom the Civic and Recreation Center will be built. With such information, it is possible to develop the design program.

As previously stated, the designer's first objective is to produce the design of a building that will provide Pulaski citizens with those recreational, social, cultural, and civic facilities that will make their county a more progressive, more enjoyable, and healthier locality in which to live. Therefore, a design program had to be developed to meet this objective on a county-wide basis through the facilities of one building, in one location.

At first, this appeared to be an unsurmountable problem. But, upon an investigation of the structure of Pulaski County as to its administration, centers of population, centers of activity, and economic resources, it was found that there was an ideal location for the Civic and Recreation Center which would not diminish the degree to which it would eventually serve every citizen equally, but would actually widen its scope and insure the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project a greater degree of success.

The Town of Pulaski was the obvious location for the building.

Pulaski is the county seat and is the center of nearly all the civic, political, and welfare activity of the county. The proposed site faces the County Court House and is within a radius of two city blocks of the

headquarters of all the civic and Masonic organizations; social, cultural, and recreational groups; and municipal and county offices, whose cooperation and support the Civic and Recreation Center must secure in uniting the citizen's efforts into a harmonious group for the benefit of the county as a whole.

Within the city limits of Pulaski alone, the Civic and Recreation Center will serve one third of the county citizens, and within a radius of nine miles of the building it will serve over 75 percent of the county population, including the inhabitants of the two other incorporated towns, Dublin and Draper. Also, within this area is to be found all of the social and cultural activity of significance, and the only efforts that have been made in the county to provide public recreation. It is this source of interest and activity that the Center must initially utilize and develop until the Center's effect is felt by every individual within the county borders after the program has had a chance to fully expand.

Not only is the Town of Pulaski and its surrounding territory the most appropriate area in which to launch the Civic and Recreation Center because it will meet the needs of the most people from the start, but it is also the most appropriate area for securing financial support for the project and, later, for directing the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Funds in the best interest of the whole county. This conclusion was drawn from the fact that the Town of Pulaski is the center of the county's industry and commerce. Here are found those successful industrialists and businessmen who are the potential supporters of the project and the wage earners who have the greatest stake in the Pulaski Perpetual Endow-

ment Fund project, not only because of the benefits they will derive from the Civic and Recreation Center, but also from the way in which the funds will be used in the industrial area. The wealth that has been accumulated by the citizens who will leave their money to the fund upon their death, will be put back into local industry through the investments of the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund, instead of being drawn from the county by outside inheritors. As industry and commerce grow, so will employment opportunities and the per capita wealth of the county. In 1950 a new wealth of nine and a half million dollars, or a per capita value of \$344.00 was created by manufacturing in the textile, woodworking, and chemical industries of the county.<sup>4</sup> With the advantage of local financing, new industries will come into Pulaski County and the existing industries will expand, raising the financial level, and, thus, the standard of living to even greater heights.

With the Town of Pulaski established as the location for the Civic and Recreation Center, it was necessary for the designer to take stock of the civic, social, cultural, and recreational resources of the vicinity in order to take advantage of the interest, enthusiasm, talents, and leadership of the people in developing a design program that will best meet their specific needs and problems. An inventory was made by interviews with the many county and city leaders and administrators, by personal observations, by surveys conducted through the county school system, and by examination of the records and reports of the various

---

4. Pulaski County, Virginia  
Financial Report 1951-1952

county and municipal departments. Part II of this thesis is a discussion of the design program which was developed on the basis of his investigations.

Recreation is a fundamental human need. Like work, love, and worship it has always been a form of human activity. Today, more than ever, recreation is of vital importance to Pulaski citizens. Changing home conditions in the forms of congestion, shift of recreation from the family circle to outside sources, the accelerated speed of modern living, and the increase in leisure time makes adequate recreation imperative. Also, recreation with its freedom of spirit and action provides an effective antidote for the ill effects of specialization and mechanization that have been increasing with the county's industrial growth.

Recently, the people of Pulaski County, and more especially the citizens of the Town of Pulaski, have come to appreciate the value of adequate recreation. They find that recreational pleasures are essential to sound bodies, sound minds, sound character, and sound living. Though these people have made great strides forward in establishing a variety of healthy leisure time activities, they have yet to utilize and develop their recreational resources to full capacity in meeting the needs of their community. The following discussion explores their progress and their shortcomings in the three realms of Pulaski recreation: 1. Public, 2. Private and Semi-private, and 3. Commercial. This examination was necessary to develop a design program which would include those specific facilities which will broaden the people's recent endeavors and develop potential fields of wholesome activity.

#### 1. Public Recreation

The first real thought given to public recreation in Pulaski came

when the Pulaski Boy's Club, under the sole leadership of Mr. Foy Aust, showed astonishing results in decreasing delinquency, increasing school attendance, and raising the morale of some 2,000 boys in the community during the nine years of its operation. In 1941, when the Boys' Club was forced to close, a committee was formed to work on plans for a recreation center for youth and adults of both sexes. The Community Chest promised \$1,000.00, and a local manufacturer donated a lot for the building, but the project was never carried past the planning stage.

Until 1946 there was a void in the community's recreation activity. At that time an extremely active Y.M.C.A. movement came to Pulaski and carried the major burden of public recreation until 1951 when, at the request of many interested citizens, a joint recreation program was established with the Pulaski Town Council. The Council set up a \$4,000.00 recreation budget to be utilized through the direction and supervision of the Y.M.C.A. in a county-wide recreational program. The County Board of Education also cooperated in the program by making the schools and playgrounds available during the summer months and by paying the salary of two coaches who assisted in the summer program. The program proved to be a tremendous success in that 1,860 different persons took advantage of the program with a total attendance of 40,752. Age groups from six to sixty participated in twelve special athletic events, fifty-nine organized athletic teams, three supervised summer playground programs, three physical education classes, two social canteens, and craft classes.<sup>5</sup>

---

5. Y.M.C.A. Report of Activities for 1951.



Though the activities and facilities for the 1952 recreation program were expanded, the participation dropped to 1,290 different persons reached and a total attendance of 11,167; this was a 72 percent decrease in total participation from the previous year. In a report to the Town Council, the fifteen member Recreation Commission appointed by the municipal government to study the recreation needs of the community gave the following reasons for the drop in public interest in the joint program:

- a. Because the program was set up and administered through the Y.M.C.A. staff, the public was not aware that the program was open to them regardless of membership in the Y.M.C.A. The program was not being accepted by the citizens as their program.
- b. For the same reason, the town government received little recognition from the public for the money spent on recreation.
- c. A program in conjunction with a church group or Y.M.C.A. organization, by its very name, repels participation by certain age groups and individuals who would get the most benefit from such a program.
- d. It was extremely difficult to get all groups in all sections of the community into a single program in a central location, resulting in the program being ineffective in the areas where it was most needed.
- e. The program failed in teaching the mass of the people the value of participation in recreational activities.

It was found that such a joint program had the effect of encouraging the town government to disregard its responsibility for recreation. The

program also placed a strain on the Y.M.C.A. whose function is to cooperate with, but not to entirely provide for, public recreation. The Y.M.C.A. reached the maximum effort that it could expend on public recreation and still meet the primary objectives of its own organization; this limited the necessary expansion of the existing program.

Though the joint program provided a public recreation program which utilized the public funds to the best possible advantage, the town government realized that the program was definitely inadequate: it was time to establish a full scale Municipal Recreation Department under town auspices. Therefore, in June, 1952, the Recreation Commission met with representatives of the National Recreation Association and drafted a \$14,000.00 budget for the first year's operation of a Municipal Recreation Program. On December 1, 1952, after interviewing several prospective recreation directors, the Town Council launched its Municipal Recreation Department by securing the services of Mr. Ralph Studebaker as the Municipal Recreation Director, who is at present in the process of building a long range recreation program for the Town of Pulaski and the surrounding areas.

From the history of Pulaski's progress in the realm of public recreation, the author drew forth the following facts that will effect the general character of the recreation program for the Civic and Recreation Center:

- a. Because of an increasing interest in recreation, the public is willing to support an extensive recreation program that will be both democratic and inclusive.
- b. Due to the sense of pride peculiar to Pulaski citizens, the only

kind of successful program will be one which makes every citizen feel that without his or her participation the program will not be as successful. These people are too proud to accept a program that is handed to them. They must feel that they personally contribute to its operation and its success. In short, they must feel that it is "their" program.

- c. The people themselves have much to contribute to a recreation program in the way of talent and time. They are eager to do so, as indicated by the 281 people who volunteered their services in helping the Y.M.C.A. in its activities for 1952. Many more are waiting for the chance to offer their services in a community program, as all of the people reached by 300 individual interest questionnaires indicated that they, or members of their families, would help in developing an adequate community recreation program. Therefore, a recreation program of unlimited scope is assured of success if proper use is made of these resources. This requires intelligent coordination and planning to insure that advantage is taken not only of the actual contributions of time and talents, but also of the enthusiasm of every individual regardless of his other concrete contributions.
- d. The municipal government of the Town of Pulaski and the several departments of the county government, particularly the County School Board and the Trial Justice Court, realize the importance of meeting the public's recreational needs. These agencies are aware of the fact that through a pooling of resources and the provision of service on a city and county-wide basis, the local

government can furnish recreation at a much lower cost than would otherwise be possible. A tax of five dollars per household for public recreation will buy day by day recreation of great variety for the whole family for the whole year, at a cost of a few theater tickets, or one attendance a month at the movies. Not only are these agencies of government aware of their responsibilities and capabilities, but they are taking steps in meeting these responsibilities. Therefore, a county-wide recreation program using the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center must secure the support and cooperation of the local government, and vice versa, as the local government cannot do the entire job alone. Freedom of choice is inherent in recreation and individuals are best served when there are a number of agencies offering a variety of recreation services from which they may choose. However, variety must be distinguished from duplication. The variety of recreational activities offered by public, private, semi-private, and commercial sources are to be desired as long as their services are of a varied sort. It is when there is an overlapping of purpose and effort that their function becomes inefficient and ineffective. The Civic and Recreation Center must unify the recreational efforts as much as possible by affording all the administrators of public, private, and semi-private recreational agencies permanent administrative headquarters for each organization within the building.

e. As the joint program of 1952 proved, private agencies cannot

give all citizens of an area as large as Pulaski County an adequate recreation program in which every individual receives equal benefits. Again, the solution lies in coordination and cooperation between public and private agencies. The functions of each must be clearly defined in the overall recreation program for the county. By an agreement as to what kind of activities are the responsibilities of each agency, each may make its plans to avoid duplication. Such an arrangement allows each agency to give the greatest benefits to the most people in the activities which come within the scope of its organization.

- f. Upon examining the activities of the Pulaski Boys' Club and the Y.M.C.A.-Municipal joint program, it was found that the quality of leadership was largely responsible for the degree of success obtained. In these activities the leaders worked with the participants rather than for them. They realized that the chief function of leadership was not to dominate the activities, but to draw out, inspire, and activate the leadership inherent in the members of the group, thus reducing supervision to a minimum and raising the personal satisfaction of the participants to a maximum. With trained leaders of intelligence and high moral caliber, individual character is developed in the participant that will carry over into his daily relationships: this may result in a partial solution to Pulaski's number one problem, juvenile delinquency. It can be a solution provided that such leadership is made available in a program that will reach

those youths who need it most. The leadership is available in the various groups interested in public recreation. The County Schools, the Municipal Recreation Department, the Y.M.C.A., 4 H Clubs, civic organizations, church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts are but a few of the many sources from which to draw high quality leaders. All that is needed is to bring these independent groups together to plan and operate an extensive program. The author recommends that a Recreation Council be established at the Civic and Recreation Center in which all interested groups and individuals may be brought together to plan an overall program based on the leadership and administration each group can provide within the scope and objectives of its own organization. The Council should comprise a federation of recreation agencies in which the identity of each remains unaltered.

- g. As public recreation is a comparatively recent innovation in Pulaski County, it has not had a chance to expand to all parts of the county, but has centered mainly in the Town of Pulaski. It was reported by the Y.M.C.A. that a few people from as far as Draper and Newbern came into Pulaski to take part in the summer programs, but the vast majority of the rural population was unable to participate. The need for fun and relaxation is as important to the farm and countryside as it is to the heavily populated cities. The rural districts have the advantage of abundant materials for play, but they need leadership and organization to make the most of their resources. The effective method

of securing county-wide recreation in Jefferson County, Kentucky,<sup>6</sup> can be applied to Pulaski County's problem. The plan entails setting up individual programs in each rural community under the auspices of experienced recreation personnel from a central source such as the Recreation Council of the Civic and Recreation Center mentioned above. Each community becomes a recreation entirety in itself after organization, functioning as a spoke in a wheel revolving about the Recreation Council as a hub. Each community sets up a recreation committee which becomes a small recreation department, constantly being assisted, but not dominated, by the expert advice of the Recreation Council. Financial aid in establishing the individual recreation units may be granted by the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund through the recommendation of the Recreation Council, with the expectation that the loan will be repaid once the unit has had an opportunity to launch its own money making activities. This is democracy in action.

- h. The public recreation programs of the past have been limited primarily to summertime outdoor activities. Partially, this is due to utilizing the limited recreation funds during the summer months when the majority of the adults and children of the community have the most leisure time. At this season, outdoor

---

6. Charles J. Vettiner, Rural Recreation for America. Rural Recreation for America, Louisville, Kentucky, 1949. The author recommends a study of this source which gives a detailed outline for the establishment and operation of a nationally acclaimed rural recreation program.

activities are most popular and can be provided most easily and with least expense. But the main reason why the recreation program has not extended beyond the summer months is because of the lack of indoor recreation facilities. At present, the publicly owned facilities consist of two basketball courts; one located at the Pulaski High School and the other at Calfee School for the colored. The use of these facilities in conjunction with the summer programs has been satisfactory, but during most of the year while the schools are in session the public has limited access to them. As a result, the periods of community use are determined by the interests of the schools rather than of the public. The only provisions for all year round community use have been made by the Town Council in renting a private gymnasium from an industrial club. The fact that this gymnasium stays in constant use and that the indoor sports, games, socials, and craft classes of the summer program were well attended indicates that adequate indoor facilities are a necessity for meeting recreation needs in all seasons.

Mention must be made of a source of public recreation provided by the State which greatly contributes to overall county recreation, though its services are not restricted to Pulaski County alone. This source is Claytor Lake State Park located within the county approximately twelve miles from the Town of Pulaski on Claytor Lake, one of the largest lakes in the State, being impounded for hydro-electric purposes. In 1952 approximately 120,000 people used its facilities which include all year round boating



and fishing; vacationing through the facilities of camping sites and 12 vacation type housekeeping cabins; picnicking in the large picnic areas equipped with tables and outdoor fireplaces; and swimming. At present a new \$84,000.00 beach and bath house is under construction. As these facilities of the park are of a seasonal and outdoor nature, they do not reduce the recreation requirements placed on the Civic and Recreation Center, but offer the possibility of incorporating the use of these facilities into the overall recreation program of the Recreation Council for special county-wide events such as aquatic festivals and camporees.

## 2. Private and Semi-private Recreation

Until 1951 the private and semi-private recreational agencies provided most of the physical recreation to be found in Pulaski County. Since this date they have been called upon to an even greater extent to help in public recreation efforts. With the establishment of the Municipal Recreation Department in the Town of Pulaski and the future dream of the Civic and Recreation Center and a county-wide recreation program, these agencies will meet their greatest opportunities for service. Not only will their experience and leadership be necessary in planning and establishing the county-wide program, but their own activities will be of vital importance in complementing and supplementing those provided by the public agencies. The availability of the adequate facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center will permit these agencies to expand their own programs in the number of people served and in a greater variety of activities offered.

In order to plan the physical recreation facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center that they may best serve the interests of the

various private and semi-private organizations as well as the general public, the designer first had to survey the present activities and facilities offered by these groups and determine their future needs. His findings follow.

Of the semi-private organizations (organizations that operate on a membership basis without membership being exclusive) the Y.M.C.A., Boy and Girl Scouts and the Little (baseball) League are the most active.

Y.M.C.A. Though the Y.M.C.A. does not have physical recreation facilities of its own, it has helped in providing physical recreation for thousands of Pulaski Citizens annually by utilizing the available County, Municipal, commercial, and private facilities. Beside its public recreation work, the Y.M.C.A. alone sponsors 14 industrial mens' bowling teams (140 men), six industrial womens' bowling teams (60 women), six to eight annual bowling parties for the high school boys and girls (100 persons), and summertime swimming instruction for 800 boys and girls. The bowling activities are conducted through the facilities of a commercial bowling center, and the swimming classes are made available by renting an outdoor swimming pool from a private industrial club.

From an interview with the general secretary of the Pulaski Y.M.C.A. the author found that the variety of the Y's activities has been curtailed by inadequate year round indoor facilities. The Y.M.C.A.'s present facilities consist of two offices, a small kitchen, a lounge, and a reading room on the second floor of the American Legion building. A building fund has been started with the hope that in the future the Y.M.C.A. can afford a building of its own equipped with adequate offices, meeting rooms,

dormitory, and certain indoor recreational facilities necessary for its program. By permanent membership on the Recreation Council, the Y.M.C.A. may take advantage of the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center until such a time that it is ready to build its own building. At that time, with the assurance that the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center will remain open to it, as they will be to all groups that are interested in promoting recreation whether public or private, the Y.M.C.A. will be able to utilize its funds in securing the facilities necessary to its particular needs, thereby supplementing rather than unnecessarily duplicating the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center.

Boy and Girl Scouts As closely as the author could discern, there are approximately twenty Scout troops in the county sponsored by church groups and civic organizations. Approximately 500 boys and girls between the ages of eight and sixteen years participate in the Scout program which offers a wide range of activities in nature study, handicraft, games, athletics, camping, and water sports. The Scout troops use the facilities of churches and private homes for most of their meetings and indoor activities, but more space for active sports and games and well equipped craft and hobby shops are needed to expand and invigorate their present activities.

Little League In 1951 a very active Little League was chartered in Pulaski. The purpose of these nation-wide organizations is to develop character as well as baseball skill in young boys from seven to twelve years old. To date, there are four regular teams in the Pulaski League and four Y.M.C.A. sponsored farm clubs with a total of 300 boys parti-

icipating. The league is modeled on the professional baseball leagues in the United States. Each league has its baseball commission and contracts are awarded to regular team players. No admission is charged at the games. Instead, a silver donation is taken. Local merchants and businesses furnish the uniforms and the equipment is purchased with money raised by means of activities carried on by the boys and interested citizens. The boys are assisted by a staff of enthusiastic and competent volunteer coaches and backed with the interest and support of the whole Town of Pulaski.

As the Little League is doing a wonderful job on its own and as it is an outdoor seasonal organization, it will require little or no aid from the Civic and Recreation Center except the assurance of a helping hand from the Recreation Council should this be necessary at any time.

Private recreational agencies are those organizations which restrict their activities to exclusive membership. Such organizations in Pulaski County come under the general headings of Industry, Religious, Country Club, and Special Interest Groups.

Industry In years past the industries in Pulaski County provided recreation for their employees, but with the recent rise of labor unions in Pulaski and the continual demands for higher wages, industrial management can no longer afford to assume the paternal role. As a result, the large industrial population has turned to other and often insufficient sources of recreation in the community, usually of a commercial nature. However, the Y.M.C.A. has given aid in organizing industrial softball and bowling leagues though only a small fraction of the workers actually participate. The Monticello Club Building, with a gymnasium, meeting hall, outdoor

swimming pool and tennis court comprises the total industrial recreation facilities. The building is owned by the Employees' Association of the Virginia Maid Hosiery Mills, but is rarely used by the employees themselves. Instead, it is rented to the Y.M.C.A.

In the transition from their former means of recreation, the industrial workers have not yet solved their recreation problems. The Civic and Recreation Center can give assistance by offering interesting and relaxing activities ranging from lounges and reading rooms to strenuous physical sports. Adequate facilities and equipment for wood and metal work, handicraft, and various manual hobby interests are particularly necessary in meeting the needs and interests of these people as they are skilled in using their hands and receive a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment from activities that utilize their craftsmanship.

Church Recreation Of the ten churches surveyed in the Town of Pulaski, three provided no specific form of recreation. The other seven provide some of the following recreation activities: seasonal outings, drama and music, parties and dinners, weekend camping, skating parties, socials, and the sponsoring of Boy and Girl Scout troops. The kind of recreational facilities vary from Sunday School rooms to auditoriums equipped with chairs, tables, fireplaces and kitchens. None of the facilities includes provision for indoor athletics. Only one church has facilities of any kind that could be made available to the public. In general, church recreation is limited by lack of interest, funds, and facilities.

Once the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center are made available, the church groups can afford to carry on a greater variety of activities which will awaken interest and bring recreation to greater numbers.

Country Club The Pulaski Country Club provides physical recreation for its 150 members through its golf, swimming, dancing, and banquet facilities. In addition, the Country Club operates a night driving range, offers professional golf instruction, and opens its swimming pool to the public through a special swimming membership. Except for the few activities open to the public, the Country Club is an exclusive organization. For this reason, and because of the fact that it is located several miles from the Town of Pulaski, the Civic and Recreation Center can be of little service to the club. However, the Country Club is now of great service to county recreation in that it adequately serves the interests of the county golf enthusiasts, and in the future its professional instructors can be of service in giving lessons to interested physical education groups from the Civic and Recreation Center.

Special Interest Groups The citizens of Pulaski County are great organizers and are interested in various forms of recreation. Therefore, many small groups have sprung up through common interests in a special kind of activity such as hunting or fishing. Though each individual group may be small in membership, there are a great many of these groups meeting in private homes throughout the community and they contribute in no small degree to the total leisure time activity in the county. Most of these groups carry on their primary activities during a particular season of the year, but meet for discussions and fellowship all year round. They are anxious to open their membership to everyone with similar interests and enthusiasm, but due to their informal meetings in private homes comparatively few people in the community know such organizations exist, much less know how to get in contact with them. To correct this

situation two services are necessary that the Civic and Recreation Center will provide: 1.) a directory of all organizations in the county that will be available to the public by the building superintendent at all times, and 2.) adequate meeting rooms in number, size, and flexibility for use by any kind or size of group.

### 3. Commercial Recreation

The motion picture theaters and drive-ins that are in abundance in the county provide the largest number of people with commercial recreation. The quality of the screen entertainment meets an average standard as first run films are shown at the Class A theatre in the Town of Pulaski, and action pictures and reissue films are shown at the Class B theatres and drive-ins throughout the county. Occasionally cheap stage shows of doubtful moral character are brought into the communities, but generally, the theaters provide entertainment that is neither markedly constructive nor actually destructive to the citizens' daily lives. It is typical of most commercial recreation in that it is motivated by profit rather than service.

Pool halls are scattered through the larger communities but serve a limited number of people as the activity is considered a "man's" game and is carried on where the serving of alcoholic beverages make this form of recreation undesirable for minors and women.

Bowling, through the facilities of a bowling center in the Town of Pulaski, produces healthy physical recreation for a large number of people of all ages and both sexes. The eight line center serves approximately 125 persons daily, including twenty to twenty-five organized teams. So popular has bowling become in Pulaski that if a citizen does not belong

to one of the bowling leagues it is nearly impossible for him to use the bowling facilities on week nights. By providing bowling at a fee corresponding to commercial rates, the Civic and Recreation Center will give the general public a chance to bowl without competing with the commercial bowling center. Church groups, teenagers and beginners will be encouraged to participate in the game in a friendly, yet dignified, atmosphere. The slight profit obtained will help maintain the non self-supporting activities of the Center.

Commercial sports have not reached the stage of commercialism that would make their value questionable in Pulaski County. The emphasis has been placed on the sport for itself rather than on the commercial aspects. The only professional sport is baseball on a Class D level. This degree of professionalism does not have the general effects of making the fan nothing but a fan — a parasite on the play of others — instead it helps boost community spirit and pride in rooting for friends and neighbors sparring with rival communities. The best insurance that Pulaski citizens will not fall prey to professionalism and commercialism in the future is to provide activities in which the people themselves may participate.

The author found that commercial recreation serves a definite function when other forms of recreation do not meet the needs of the public, but generally, when profit is eliminated the quieter and higher pleasures find a chance for expression. Therefore, the more responsibility taken by public and private recreational agencies, especially when joined in cooperative planning, the more real value the citizens will derive from their leisure hours.



Pulaski citizens are extremely gregarious, and they are eager to enrich their lives by expanding their cultural interests. Therefore, they have established many outstanding organizations that have contributed greatly to making Pulaski the socially active and culturally advanced county that it is.

### 1. Social

It is difficult to classify the various organizations as social, cultural, or civic, since they all carry on at least two of these functions simultaneously. But, for the purpose of examining the group of social organizations in the county, the author will include some organizations that might be also classified as civic or special interest, because a large portion of their value is derived from the fellowship of their meetings and activities. It was impossible for the author to include the many small private social groups such as bridge and hobby clubs, therefore, the following list includes only the most outstanding of the social organizations.

- American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Business and Professional Woman's Club
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Disabled American Veterans
- Elks Club
- Garden Club
- Hoe and Hope Club
- Industrial Management Club
- Junior Woman's Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Lion's Club
- Madaline Harman Woman's Club
- Masons

New River Shrine Club  
Rotary Club  
Ruritan Club  
United Daughters of the Confederacy  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Woman's Club  
Y.M.C.A. Men's Club

Only the American Legion, Elks, Masons, Woman's Club, and the Y.M. C.A. have their own meeting facilities. The other organizations meet in private homes or have their luncheon or dinner meetings at commercial establishments. The use of commercial facilities has the disadvantages of restricting the type of program that may be presented at their meetings, insufficient privacy, lack of flexibility as to time and frequency of meetings, often too expensive, unsuitable accoustical conditions for special programs and speakers due to inflexible space for groups of varying size, and no provision for equipment storage between meetings. By meeting in private homes the activities are restricted to an even greater degree and often disrupt the family functions of the hosts. Though a more intimate atmosphere is maintained in the homes, it is usually at the expense of comfort and of limiting the size of the group. The Civic and Recreation Center will solve these problems by providing adequate, pleasant, flexible, sound insulated meeting rooms to groups of any size at all times free of charge.

The organizations listed provide weekly or bi-weekly social contacts for an estimated 1,500 persons, but these contacts do not entirely meet the social needs of this group. In addition, the vast majority of the county population is not affiliated with any of these organizations due to lack of interest or finances for such activity and the exclusive membership requirements of many of the groups. At present, "family nights",

private entertaining, and small special interest groups furnish most of the social activity, but in general, the social life of the average citizen lacks variety and vigor. A community social center is needed where the individual can find fellowship, new experiences, emotional release, and plain relaxation with his friends and neighbors. A center is needed where small informal groups may get together, where community groups can enjoy group participation in dancing, social games and special events, where county-wide social activities may be sponsored by various organizations at a moderate price and with the assurance that it is of a wholesome and constructive character, and where annual and traditional community socials and festivals can be held. In short, facilities are needed where a vigorous and active community life may be carried on.

Special attention must be given to the social needs of the county youth as teenagers, between the ages of fourteen and twenty, comprise 23% of the total county population. The home and school have guided their social interests and contacts until this age, but at the age of 13 and 14 boys and girls make their debut into the social world on their own. The degree of wholesome association with each other and the number of satisfying experiences they pass through largely determines their success in making normal social adjustments. However, attention should not be called to their development, rather it should be spontaneous and natural while they are playing and working together. As youths entering their teens have reached varying levels of social development, and because well rounded development requires experience in many phases of social life, the Civic and Recreation Center must foster a variety of satisfying and stimulating activities in accordance with the interests and desires of

average teenagers. The author found through his individual surveys and interviews with youth leaders that teenagers want to dance, lounge around, play ping pong and other games, have parties, sing and play musical instruments, swim, join athletic teams, make things with their hands, put on plays, and run their own affairs. Like their parents, the youths themselves are great organizers and want to feel that they can shoulder responsibility and live up to public trust. They need facilities for a Youth Center of their own where they can get together for parties and dances, drift in for a game of ping pong or shuffle board, operate their own snack bar, do their own decorating, set up a youth council, handle their own discipline problems, and share in the operation of the Center. Therefore the designer will include such a Youth Center in a semi-isolated area of the Civic and Recreation Center which will adequately meet the physical requirements, while through the assistance of the Recreation Council, the enthusiasm, imagination, and resourcefulness of adult advisors and supervisors can be secured for the successful and healthy operation of the Youth Center.

## 2. Cultural Recreation

Most of the cultural activities in the county are centered in the Town of Pulaski. Here the Arts Club, Music Club, and the Little Theater group have done much to awaken the cultural interests of the community, but expansion of their activities is being hampered by the lack of facilities with which to carry on on a large scale.

The fifty members of the Arts Club put on an annual art exhibit in which they invite the art department of the Woman's Club, the high schools, and all interested citizens of the county to exhibit with them.

As there is insufficient exhibit space in the county, the exhibits are held in the store windows of downtown Pulaski. Recently the Arts Club has joined the American Art Association which will bring traveling exhibits and demonstrations to the community, provided suitable facilities can be made available to allow the public to take advantage of them. The club has long wanted to build a craft shack where its members can make and sell handicraft articles, but due to insufficient funds the project has not been carried forth. The Civic and Recreation Center can be of great service to the Arts Club and to the community by including an exhibition area in its lobby, and an art department in conjunction with its handicraft and hobby shops. The Center will also enable the public to attend the lectures and demonstrations sponsored by the Arts Club and other cultural groups through the facilities of its meeting rooms and its main auditorium.

Only the Pulaski High School, through its own staff and with fees charged for materials, has offered art study of any kind in the county. Although this course is limited to the very fundamentals of modeling and painting, a surprising amount of talent and interest has been uncovered. The Arts Club reports that there are many adults in the county who have artistic ability that has never been developed, and they are eager to see what they can do. All they need is a place where they can receive inspiration and encouragement. Through the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center, and the inspiration and instruction of the Arts Club, the talents and creative abilities of the community can be brought out and find expression. In addition, the cultural interests of every individual will be expanded by his exposure to art exhibits and discussions.

Pulaski County is very proud of the work carried on by the Music Club. It has an active membership of ninety-eight which bring the pleasures of good music to the whole county. Among its many services to the county, the following are a few of its most outstanding: the club sponsors and coordinates two community festivals annually; it brings the Virginia Symphony Orchestra to the county three or four times a year; through its membership in the National Federation of Music it sponsors a concert series in which world renown artists appear; it sponsors children's concerts; club members give talks and conduct choral groups in the schools; the club sponsors a half hour musical program over the local radio station; it donates record albums to the public library; and it sends two high school students to the Schubert Festival each year. In addition to the many services to the community, the Music Club finds time to participate in its own Little Symphony Orchestra and choral groups.

The Music Club has stimulated the citizens' inherent love of music to a degree that music has become a fixed part of their lives. The Pulaski High School Band has also been responsible for provoking a large share of musical interests in the young people. There is an ever increasing demand for good music in the county. In order to meet this demand facilities must be provided that will allow greater numbers to attend concerts, that will encourage more community and county-wide music festivals by their size and accoustical design, and that will allow small groups to play and sing for their own amusement.

Along with the cultural awakening in art and music, dramatics has also taken root in the county. Many Pulaski people come to the productions staged at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and at the Radford Recreation Center. They have also given support to their own local dramatic

group, the Little Theater, which is still in its infancy but has demonstrated a great deal of talent and industry. What little they lack in professional polish, they more than make up in hard work and enthusiasm. In the eighteen months that its members have been together, they have produced four plays that have met with large acclaim from the community. They wish to expand their membership and become versatile in all types of drama. Their greatest need is the use of a large auditorium with a well equipped stage, storage facilities, dressing rooms, and a work area where they can prepare their stage flats.

In their previous productions they have used the facilities of the Jefferson School auditorium. Because many second rate performances have been given at the Jefferson School by traveling hill billy shows and amature groups, the public has not supported the Little Theatre productions as well as if they had been staged in an auditorium that had the reputation of giving the public entertainment of quality. It was suggested that the Civic and Recreation Center screen all entertainment before it is presented through its facilities in order to protect the public and high quality entertainers from the damaging effects of poor performances.

Two additional agencies, the Beta Sigma Phi Sororities and the Y.M. C.A., have appreciably contributed to the total social and cultural activities of the county, though they are organized primarily for the benefit of their own membership. In addition to providing year round social and cultural programs for their sixty members, the three Beta Sigma Phi Sororities serve the public interest by sponsoring four Barter Theater productions annually and conduct weekly dancing classes for third and

fourth year high school students. The Y.M.C.A. offers its 1,800 members a variety of social, cultural, educational and religious activities on the average of twice weekly. Without reference to membership, the Y.M.C.A. conducts two social canteens for white and colored youths, holds a social hour after high school football games, give special youth parties, and conduct five adult education classes for men and women.



In order to meet the requirements of making Pulaski a more unified and progressive county, the Civic and Recreation Center must provide facilities for the support of the three fields of county civic activity: 1.) political, 2.) educational, and 3.) charity and welfare.

#### 1. Political

As mentioned in the thesis introduction, Pulaski citizens have always been active in national and local affairs. Today, more than ever, they are quick to act on matters that affect their welfare. Through the efforts of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and civic clubs in their "get out and vote" campaigns, 95% of the registered voters of Pulaski cast their vote in the 1952 presidential elections; an obvious indication that these people take their political responsibilities to heart.

Civic groups are constantly fighting for or against civic issues such as securing a County Probation Officer, fluoridation of the public water supply, or public recreation. Often the conflict over these issues reach a dangerous intensity in that good will between citizens of divided opinions is threatened. Conflict is healthy and necessary in the operation of an active and progressive community provided the disagreement is voiced openly and discussed intelligently. Pulaski citizens not only take keen delight in voicing their opinions, but they are also endowed with intelligence and are consecrated to democratic ideals. They lack only the physical facilities for public gatherings in which to discuss and solve their problems. Public school auditoriums have been used in the past for public meetings, but due to their limited

seating capacity, they have been inadequate for holding public gatherings on a town or county level. It is of great importance that the Civic and Recreation Center provide a centrally located assembly hall that is capable of seating several thousand people and meeting rooms for smaller lyceums and discussion groups.

The Civic and Recreation Center, with its large assembly hall, adequate meeting rooms, kitchen facilities, spacious lounges, and exhibition space, will be of additional service to county commerce by encouraging convention groups to come into the county. As the closest assembly hall of suitable size for large conventions is located in Roanoke, Virginia, the Civic and Recreation Center will draw professional and industrial groups to Pulaski from Southwest Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

In order that the Civic and Recreation Center will be self-supporting to the greatest possible degree, a portion of the ground floor will be leased to the Town of Pulaski and the county government for municipal offices and offices for the several county departments that can not be housed in the antiquated and outgrown County Court House which is located across the street from the Civic and Recreation Center. The municipal offices are at present located in the heart of the commercial district on property that is too valuable as commercial property to be used for public offices. The Town Council has been looking for suitable office facilities as the town offices were not designed for their present use and have long been over crowded. As frequent contacts are necessary between these two agencies of government in their routine administration, it will be of special advantage to place them in the same building. As

the governmental offices will not require the entire ground floor of the building, the excess space will be rented to commercial firms.

## 2. Educational

In recent years the County School Board has done much to meet the demands for greater school facilities and an expansion of the curriculum. By 1954, seven new schools, including two large high schools, will be added to the present twenty six school plants. As the county schools provide adequate formal education for the 6,600 children of school age in Pulaski County, the Civic and Recreation Center will not make provision for youth education other than the training and educational values derived from the social, cultural, and physical recreation activities open to the youths. However, the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund, itself, will enable capable county youth who lack the financial means to take advantage of further educational opportunities.

A definite interest in adult education has been shown by the introduction of Dale Carnegie Courses into the community by the Y.M.C.A. sponsored Industrial Management Clubs that help develop industrial workers for more responsible jobs by the establishment of Williams Business College in the Town of Pulaski, and by the interest shown by the various clubs and societies in lectures and symposia on world affairs and other educational subjects. Such healthy interests must be encouraged as the educational level of the county is relatively low. Of the county population 25 years and older, only 5% completed four years of college, and 12% completed high school; the county median is 7.8 school years completed. The Civic and Recreation Center will enhance education by making facilities available for instruction and demonstrations to groups of

varying size and interests, adequate meetings for discussion groups and community lectures, and attractive exhibition space.

The greatest contribution that the Civic and Recreation Center can make to the educational advancement of all ages is to include provisions for a new library to replace the long outgrown Pulaski County Free Library located in the Town of Pulaski. It has become one of the most active libraries in the State and is in great need of larger and technically improved facilities. Through the appropriations of the State, County and Town, the library offers 16,428 books, 75 periodicals, and 61 musical record albums to the Town of Pulaski through the main branch and reaches all rural schools and fourteen communities with its traveling bookmobile. In order that the library may be of maximum service, the new facilities should include a main reading room for general use, a children's room for elementary and pre-school children, a business-industry study room, and a music department equipped with sound insulated record playing cells.

### 3. Charity and Welfare

Beside the County Department of Public Welfare there are eighteen different groups engaged in social welfare and philanthropic activities in the Pulaski County. They are truly dedicated to their work and have done a great deal in helping their fellow man, but they can accomplish much more by coordinating their efforts. Often, because of lack of planning between them, their activities have been ineffective. The fact that the 1953 Pulaski Community Chest failed in its drive bears witness to the need for closer cooperation as the drive was conducted too close to the March of Dimes and Heart Fund campaign. The public is willing

to give whole-hearted support to such activities so long as they feel that they are not being imposed upon by too frequent requests. The solicitations, if not combined into one drive, should be planned so as to be spread out during the year. Such a plan requires cooperative planning among the organizations, but under the present conditions it is extremely difficult to bring these groups together as only a few of them such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army have a headquarters where they may be contacted. Others such as the civic clubs and philanthropic societies carry on their activities by small committees disbursed through the community, or by individuals appointed by regional directors from year to year. The Civic and Recreation Center can bring all these groups together by establishing a central office for all charity and welfare work in which the organizations without a headquarters of their own can share in the expense of maintaining the office and a full-time secretary who will keep the individual accounts and files and receive the public. Through the secretary, all organizations can be contacted and brought together for planning and discussion sessions, thus assuring coordination and more efficient service to the county and community. A small work and storage room adjoining the office should also be provided. The cost born by each group will be very small in comparison to the greater amount of service they will be able to render.

The preceding sections have stated the authors conception of Pulaski County's progress and its problems that the facilities of the Civic and Recreation Center can accelerate and alleviate, respectively. In conclusion, the author submits a summary of activities which is the basis of the building design.

### 1. Physical Recreation

badminton	passive games
basketball	bingo
bowling	board games
boxing	cards
diving	pool
fencing	shuffle board
gymnastics	small calibre shooting
apparatus work	table tennis
bag punching	tennis (indoor)
baton twirling	volleyball
calisthenics	water polo
tumbling	weight lifting
handball	wrestling
lifesaving	swimming
low organized games	

### 2. Social Activity

banquets	fun nights
barbeques	mother and daughter dinners
basket suppers	parties
card clubs	costume
community social evenings	hardtimes
dancing	holiday
barn dances	masquerade
dancing classes	quilting
ballet	splash
modern	tacky
tap	pencil and paper games
folk dancing	scavenger hunts
social dancing	social games
indoor & outdoor	socials
father and son dinners	youth center

3. Cultural ActivitiesArts and Crafts:

basketry  
 bead craft  
 block printing  
 carving  
 ceramics  
 costume design  
 drawing  
 electrical work  
 exhibits  
 finger painting  
 hobby clubs  
 hobby shows  
 jewelry making  
 leather craft  
 metal craft

modeling  
 model making  
 needle work  
 painting  
 paper craft  
 photography  
 plastic craft  
 pottery  
 reed and raffia  
 rug making  
 sculpture  
 sewing  
 weaving  
 wood working

Dramatics:

charades  
 doll shows  
 fashion shows  
 festivals  
 holiday program  
 impersonations  
 informal dramatizations  
 making flats  
 marionettes  
 minstrel shows  
 movies  
 one act plays

pageants  
 pantomime  
 plays  
 playwriting  
 professional productions  
 puppetry  
 radio dramas  
 shadow graphs  
 stage management  
 story telling  
 talent nights  
 water pageants

Music:

## vocal:

a cappella choirs  
 Christmas caroling  
 community sings  
 glee clubs

informal singing groups  
 operettas  
 quartets  
 recitals

## instrumental:

cigar box fiddlers  
 harmonica bands  
 music lessons  
 recitals

rehearsing  
 rhythm bands  
 string quartets or ensembles  
 ukulele orchestra

## performances:

band concerts  
 cantatas  
 children's concerts  
 concert series  
 glee club concerts

incidental music at performances  
 music festivals  
 operettas  
 orchestral concerts  
 radio concerts

Music:

## miscellaneous:

listening groups  
music appreciation courses

music study clubs  
music week activities

Mental and Linguistic:

book clubs  
debates  
discussion groups  
forums  
lectures  
magic

poetry  
public speaking  
play writing  
radio script writing  
reading  
spelling bees

4. Civic Activities

civilian defense training  
conventions  
discussion groups  
first aid classes  
industrial exhibits  
joint planning meetings

lyceums  
political rallies  
public ceremonies  
public hearings  
self advancement courses  
welfare center



PART III.....DESIGN

A.

PRESENTATION

---

LEGEND

- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAYS
- VIRGINIA PRIMARY HIGHWAYS
- RAILROADS
- TRANSMISSION LINES
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE LIMITS
- COUNTY SEAT
- POWER SUBSTATION
- STREAM GAGING STATION
- DIRECTION OF AND AVERAGE FLOW IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS PER DAY (FLOWS OF LESS THAN 5 M.G.D. NOT SHOWN)

N.B.W. RY. NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY

PULASKI COUNTY

VIRGINIA

SCALE OF MILES



AREA WITHIN 9 MILE RADIUS OF THE CIVIC AND RECREATION CENTER



LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED  
CIVIC & RECREATION CENTER FOR PULASKI COUNTY  
 AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE TOWN OF PULASKI, VIRGINIA

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ① CIVIC AND RECREATION CENTER | ⑧ CALLEE PARK AND STADIUM            |
| ② HORSE SHOES AND CROQUET     | ⑨ COOL SPRINGS PLAYGROUND            |
| ③ PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL         | ⑩ ACID PLANT HILL PLAYGROUND         |
| ④ NEGRO SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUND | ⑪ CLAREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL        |
| ⑤ MONTICELLO CLUB             | ⑫ PICO TERRACE SCH & FUTURE HIGH SCH |
| ⑥ JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | ⑬ CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND              |
| ⑦ SMALL PUBLIC PARK           | ⑭ NORTHWOOD SCHOOL & PLAYGROUND      |



COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL AREA



CAR SALES

Y.M.C.A.  
AM. LEGION  
BAKERY  
CLEANERS  
UNOCCUPIED  
RESTAURANT  
GROCERY PARKING  
GROCERY STORE

UNEMPLOYMENT  
LAUNDRY  
DEPARTMENT STORE

WASHINGTON AVE.

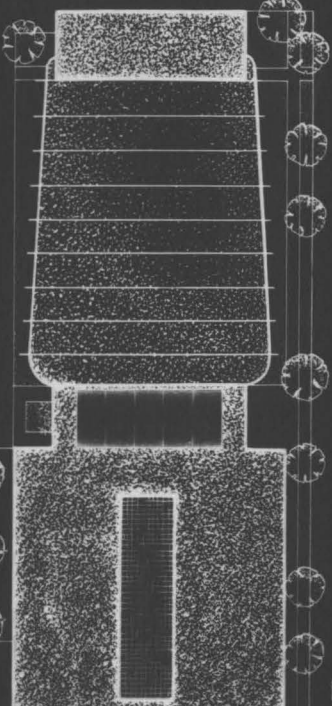
USED CAR LOT  
PARKING GARAGE

RADIO REPAIR  
GAS STA.  
GAS STA.  
SEARS SUPPLY  
AUTO SUPPLY  
FLOWER & GIFT  
RADIO & TV SHOP  
GRILL  
WALLACE BLDG.

GAS STATION  
FUNERAL HOME

RES.  
RES.  
WOMAN'S CLUB  
RES.  
RES.

TELEPHONE CO.  
MASONIC HALL  
RES.  
RES.  
RES.  
RES.



M.D. OFF.  
OFFICE SUPPLY  
COURT HOUSE LAWN  
M.D. & D.D. OFF.

4 0 0 1 \$ T R E E T

J R D \$ T R E E T

FRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RES.  
RES.

FURNITURE STORE  
LAUNDRY  
GROCERY STORE

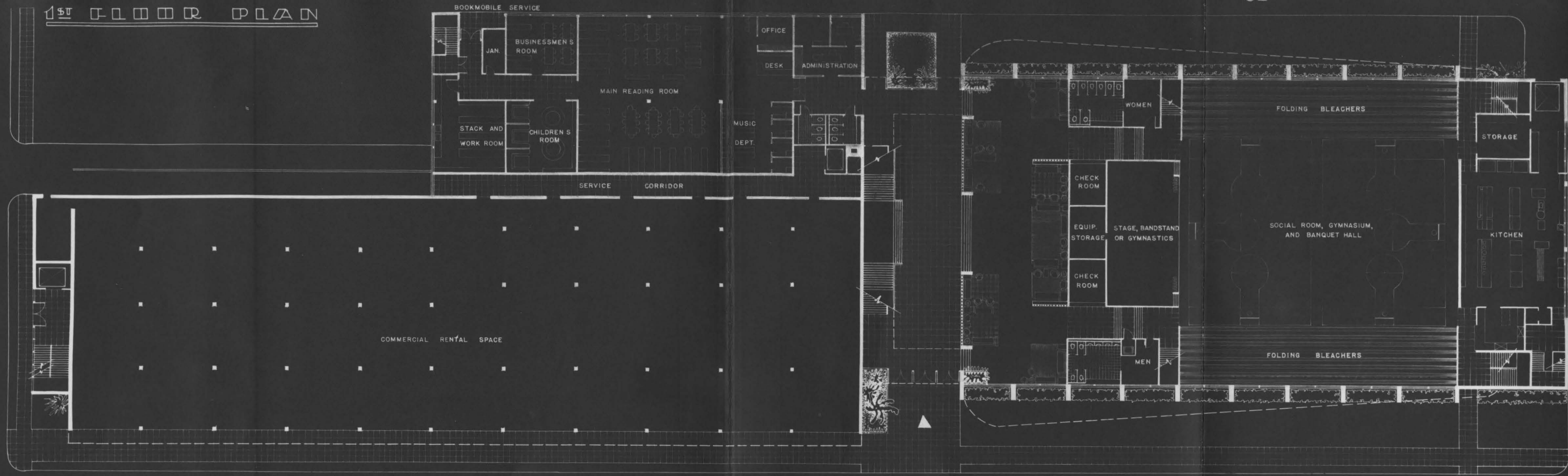
JEFFERSON AVE.



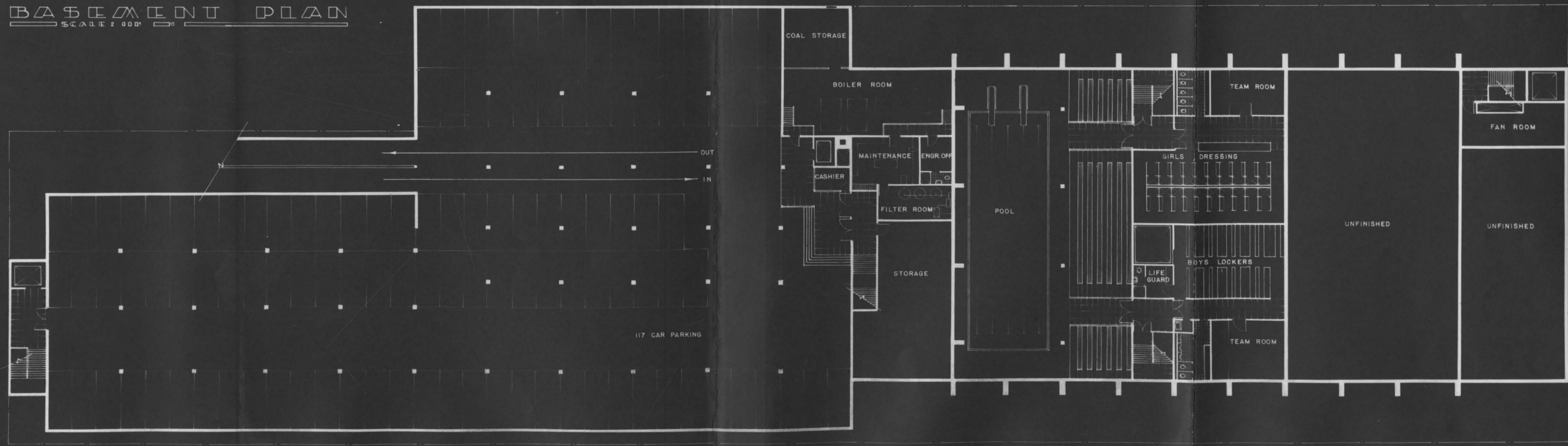
APT. BLDG.  
MD. OFF.  
METHODIST CHURCH

APT. BLDG.  
PARKING LOT

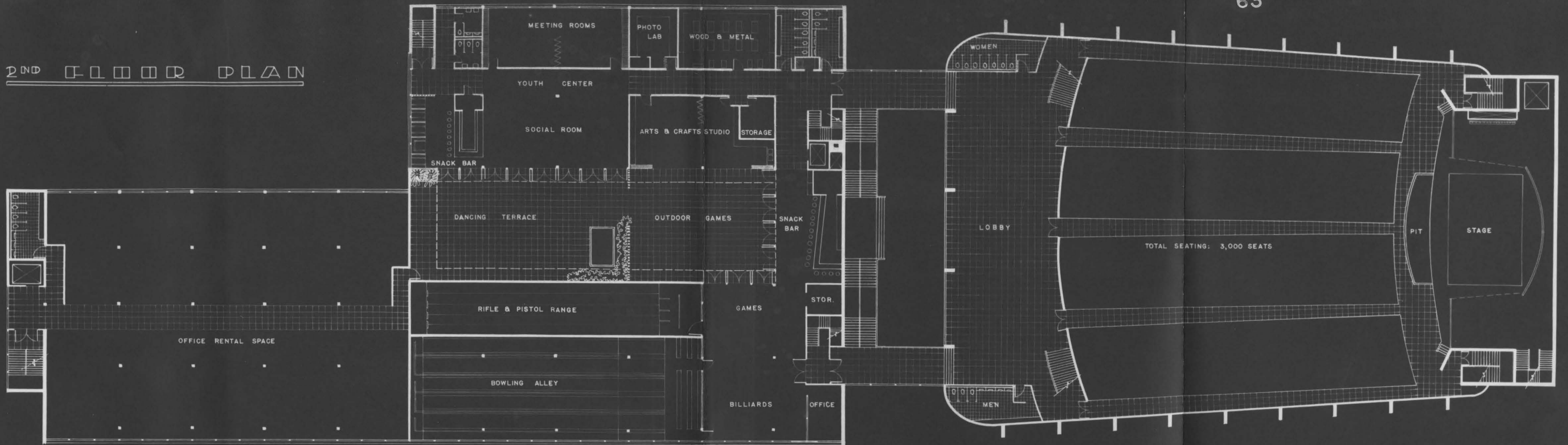
1ST FLOOR PLAN



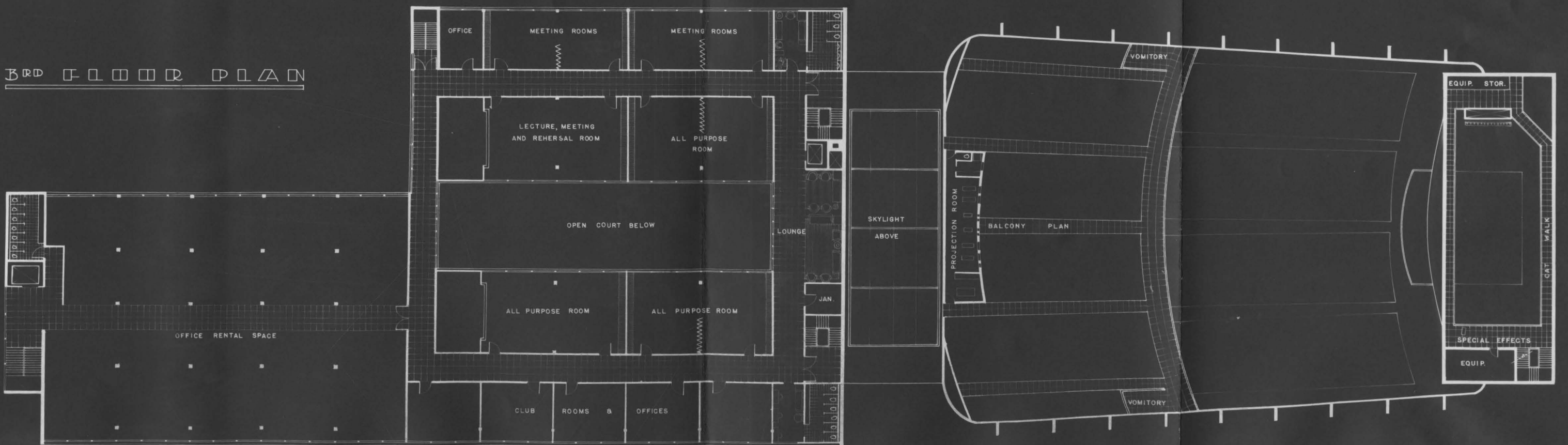
BASEMENT PLAN



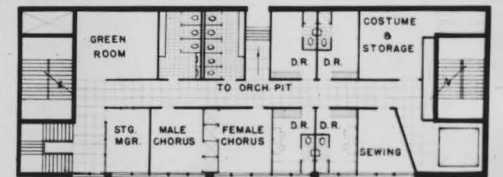
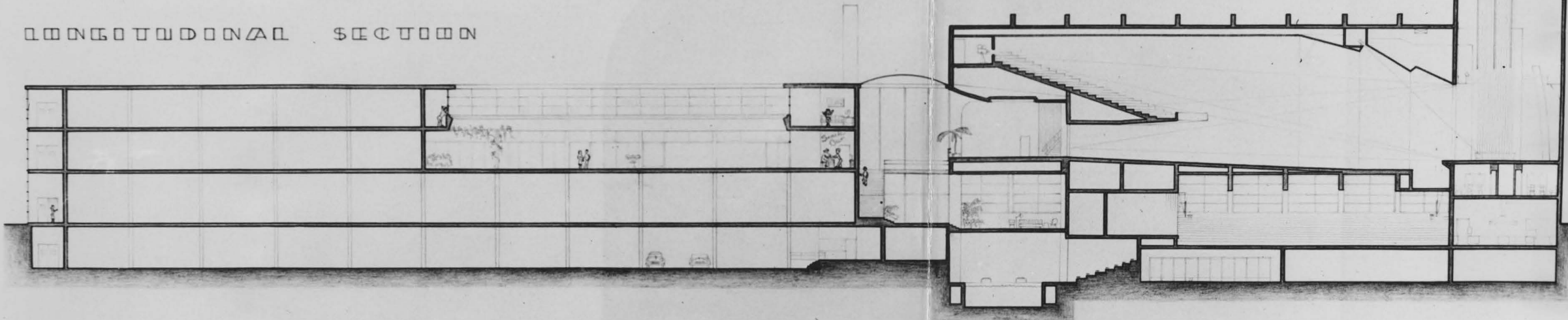
2ND FLOOR PLAN



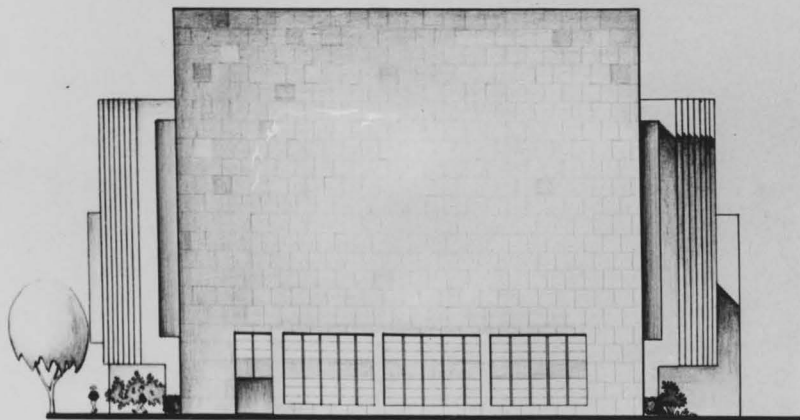
3RD FLOOR PLAN



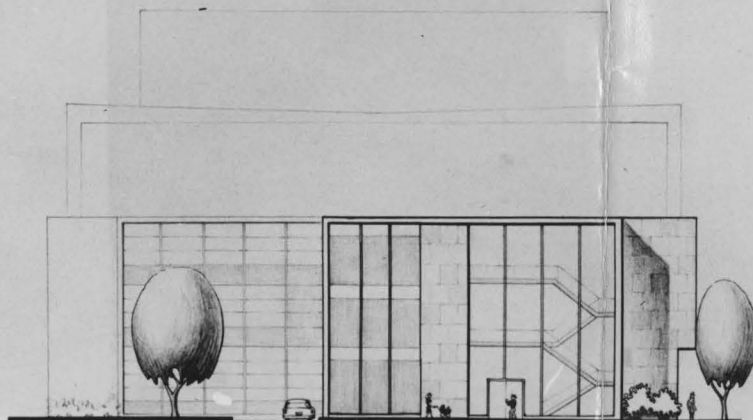
LONGITUDINAL SECTION



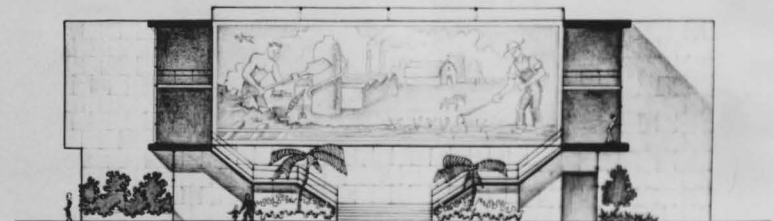
DRESSING ROOMS



EAST ELEVATION

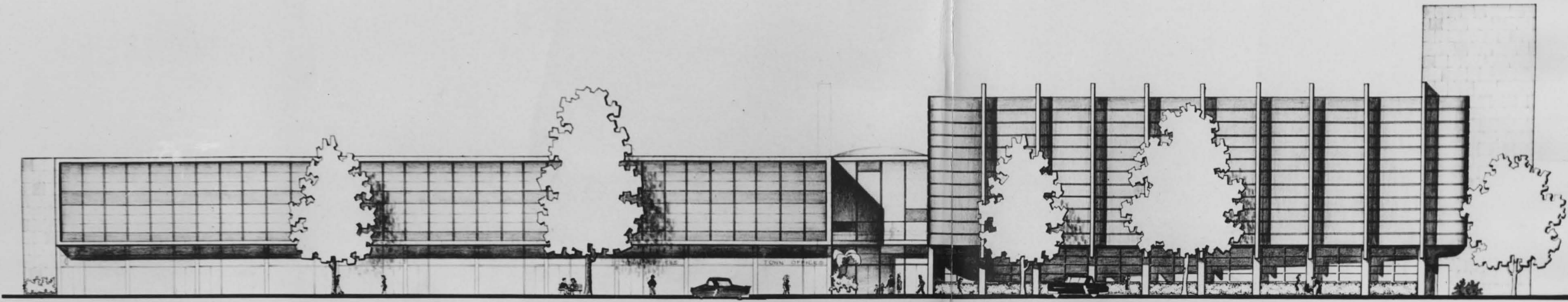


WEST ELEVATION

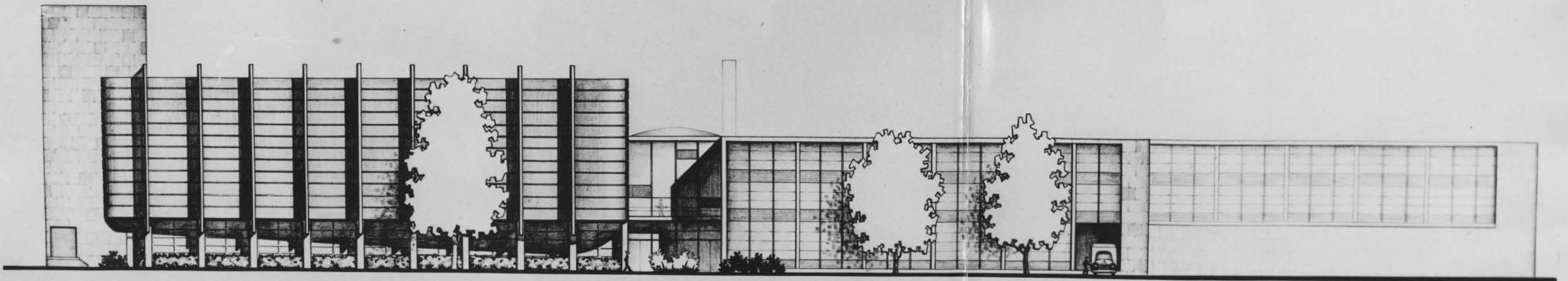


LOBBY SECTION

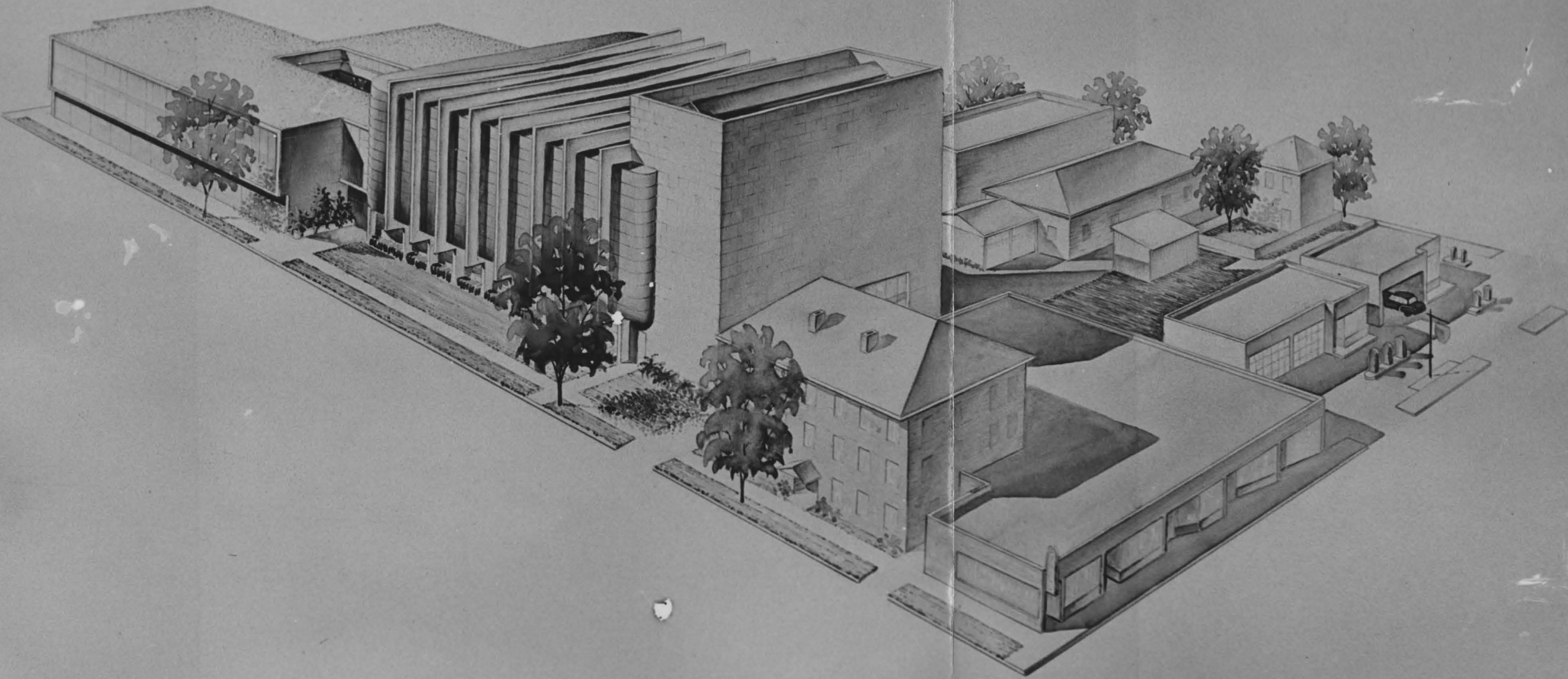




S O U T H E L E V A T I O N



N O R T H E L E V A T I O N





### 1. General

In the preparation and presentation of the design submitted in the preceding section, the designer has not attempted to make a detailed study of the construction and mechanical equipment of the building, as the primary objective of this thesis is to provide the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce with a design for a Civic and Recreation Center for use as a selling tool in promoting the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project. Instead, the major emphasis has been placed on solving the planning problems entailed in designing a building through which the civic and recreational needs of Pulaski County may be met, and on presenting the solution in a non-technical, self-explanatory form that may be understood and appreciated by those who are not familiar with the techniques and expressions of the architectural profession.

### 2. The Site

As the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project is in its rudimentary planning stage, a site had not been obtained for the Civic and Recreation Center at the time this work was begun. Therefore, for the purpose of this thesis, a tentative site was selected by Mr. Bunts without intent of actual purchase. However, it is the designer's opinion that a more appropriate site could not be found. It is centrally located in the Town of Pulaski facing the County Court House, the well kept lawn of which affords a view from the Court House of nearly the whole South elevation of the Center. Several of the County departments are expected to expand their office facilities by renting space in the Center, and

they can thus maintain close contact with the other departments in the Court House.

The site is 130 feet west of the main artery of the town, Washington Avenue, which is also Route 11 through town, and is one block north of the main commercial district. See the site location plan on page 61. Because the site is on the edge of the commercial district, yet off of the main traffic arteries on a quiet, shady, secondary street, a great amount of rentable area was set aside in the building. The rent from this space will support more, and more adequate, non self-supporting facilities and the space will not have the disadvantages of being located in the congested commercial district.

The site also has the advantage of being the hub of the existing recreational facilities that will be utilized by the Recreation Council for neighborhood programs in conjunction with the overall recreation program for the town and county.

### 3. The Building

#### Circulation

When comparing the Civic and Recreation Center to the surrounding buildings on the site location plan, the Center appears extremely large, but, in reality, the highest portion of the Center is only slightly higher than the three story buildings around it. Thus, by limiting the Center to three floor levels above grade, vertical circulation could be accomplished largely by stairs and the expense of installing elevators was kept to a minimum. One elevator connects the basement, lobby on the ground floor, and the two office floors above in order to permit rapid and convenient access to the commercial and professional offices by the

public.

### Floor Areas

The length of the Center is greater than its neighboring buildings, for the designer took advantage of the 500 foot site frontage to provide maximum rental area on the site. The relationship of rental areas to the areas devoted to civic and recreational activities is shown in the following list of areas.

<u>Floor Level</u>	<u>Type of Commercial Area</u>	<u>Commercial Area (in square feet)</u>	<u>Area of Civic and Recreation Facilities</u>
Basement	Commercial Parking	26,900	15,200
1st Floor	Shops and Offices Library	22,940 5,940	23,200
2nd Floor	Office Rental	10,080	42,600
3rd Floor	Office Rental Club Office Rental	10,080 2,760	25,440
Dressing Room Level	None	00,000	3,600
Totals.....		78,700 sq. ft.	110,040 sq. ft.
Total square footage for the building: 188,740			

### Structure

In keeping with the Building Code of the Town of Pulaski, which requires public buildings to be of fireproof construction, the designer chose a reinforced concrete framing system. Reinforced concrete is particularly adaptable to the frames of varying widths which support the main auditorium and span the gymnasium.

The main section of the building which houses the rental areas and other facilities is also of reinforced concrete construction and employs a long-span, metal pan structural floor system which permits maximum

flexibility in placing partitions in the rental areas due to the smooth ceiling which is applied throughout. Further flexibility is gained as this floor system meets varying live load requirements for different types of occupancy by merely increasing or decreasing the depth of the ribs in standard two inch increments. The metal pan system is of special value in meeting the condition in this building where the bays are of equal 24 feet widths, but vary in length.

The skin walls are of aluminum architectural projected windows and porcelain enameled steel panels at the spandrels, supported by vertical aluminum structural mullions that extend the whole height of the window wall. All other exterior walls are of masonry construction faced with precast concrete.

#### Noise Control

The meeting rooms on the third floor facing into the open court are cantilevered four feet into the court with canting spandrels to deflect disturbing noises of the activities carried on below. In addition, the exterior masonry walls of the lower level of the court will be faced with rubble ashlar stone to diffuse noise and to give an informal character to the dancing terrace. The use of aluminum accoustical ceilings is recommended throughout the building.

#### Heating and Air Conditioning

Steam heat for the building will be supplied by coal fired boilers.

Mechanical ventilation and air conditioning is unnecessary in the main section of the building as every room can be naturally ventilated. The auditorium, gymnasium, swimming pool, and locker rooms are ventilated and air conditioned by a unit in the basement under the stage.

### Servicing Facilities

Service facilities for the building include a hydrolic lift for servicing the stage and the kitchen from the north alley, and a freight elevator in the main section of the building which services the commercial area on the first floor, the snack bars and arts and craft shops on the second floor, and general utility services on all floors from the delivery ramp in the basement.

### Parking Facilities

Due to the rapid growth of the Town of Pulaski, parking facilities are grossly inadequate in the vicinity of the proposed Civic and Recreation Center. Therefore, with the additional congestion that will be caused by the Center, it is imperative that parking facilities be provided on the site. The designer has provided parking for 117 cars in the basement with entrance and exit ramps on Jefferson Avenue. During the working hours of the day the parking facilities will be on a commercial basis, but at night the facilities will be open without charge to those attending functions of the Center.



To a few citizens of Pulaski, a project of this magnitude will no doubt appear preposterous. To others who have the ability to project themselves into the future, the Pulaski Perpetual Endowment Fund project is a symbol of progress in Pulaski County. These farsighted citizens are able to visualize new industries in operation with a corresponding new wealth, new opportunities for education and advancement, and a new financial power at work building Pulaski into a stronger and more progressive county.

They also visualize the Civic and Recreation Center inspiring a greater sense of pride in their county and communities with youth enthusiastically engaged in constructive activity, a long range recreation program spreading through the county building sounder bodies and happier, more alert minds, and socially awakened, culturally fertile communities.

These views became those of the designer also from his first contact with the people of Pulaski whose industry, sincerity, and progressive attitude he has come to appreciate and greatly admire. At the conclusion of this work, the designer feels more confident than ever before that the project is more than just possible, but will be carried out with complete success.

BOOKS

- Architectural Record                    Time Savers Standards; New York  
F. W. Dodge Corporation, 1946
- Burris-Meyer, Harold, and  
Cole, Edward C.                    Theaters and Auditoriums; New York,  
Reinhold Publishing Company, 1949
- Butler, George D.                    Introduction to Community Recreation  
New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1949
- Edwards, R. Henry                    Popular Amusements; New York  
Association Press, 1915
- Jamestown Exposition  
Commission                    Pulaski County, Virginia; Pulaski,  
Southwest Publishing Company, 1907
- Hayes, Wayland J.                    The Small Community Looks Ahead;  
New York, Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1947
- Playground and Recreation  
Association of America                The Normal Course in Play; New York,  
A. S. Barnes and Company, 1926
- Vettiner, Charles J.                    Rural Recreation for America; Louisville,  
Rural Recreation for America, 1949.

PAMPHLETS

- "From Gangs to Boys' Club"; New Dominion  
Series, Number 8, Charlottesville, Virginia,  
December 15, 1941
- "Know Your Community"; National Recreation  
Association, 1946
- "Pulaski County, Virginia, Financial Report  
1951-1952 and Other General Information";  
Pulaski Board of Supervisors, Pulaski, Vir-  
ginia, September 1952
- "Pulaski Virginia"; Pulaski County Chamber  
of Commerce, 1952
- "Youth Centers"; Recreation Division of the  
Office of Community War Services, Washing-  
ton, D. C., 1945

**The vita has been removed from  
the scanned document**